



## *East Wales Regional Athletic Council*

### **Minutes of East Wales Regional Athletic Council, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 7:00pm Newport Stadium.**

#### **Present:**

Ryan Spencer-Jones (RSJ); Richard Sheehy (RS); Martyn Jenkins (MJ); Jeanette Jenkins (JJ); Kirsty Crane (KC) (Newport Harriers); Mike Brunnock (MB Kay Morgan (KM) (Pontypwl and District) Dick Finch (DF) (Chepstow); Niki Morgan (NM); Keith Matthews (KM); Chris Vorres (CV) (Chair); Joyce Tomala (JT) (T&F); Michelle Rodway (MR) (RVAC); Bethan Akanbi-Mortimer (BAM) (Secretary); Lou Summers (LS); Andrew Dickens (AD).

#### **Apologies:**

Hilary Goodger (Vice Chair); Paul Day (Liswerry); Richard Walters (Brecon Triathlon Club); Carolyn (BGAC); Peter Hitchings (Newport Harriers); Lyn Cushing (T& F Officials); Satu Haikala (SH); Lynette Harries (LH); Peter Sowerby (PS); Gerry Ashton (GA); Ruth Powell (RP); Jon Hancock (Usk Runners)

1. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST** (new declarations)
  - A. no new declarations were raised
2. **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**
  - A. EWRAC Mountain & Fell Representative
    - a. A representative for Mountain and Fell is required: Members agreed to take this back to clubs and seek expressions of interest for a new regional representative. It was emphasised the importance of finding a representative and it was noted that clubs need to be more pro-active in passing on this information to all club members.  
**ACTION: expressions of interest sought from clubs – please can all club secretaries ensure they share this with all club members.**
  - B. Confirmation of webmaster and launch date
    - a. CV reported that a skeleton site would be ready in 2 weeks' time; it will include the privacy notice and sections for documents, track and field, endurance, mountain and fell, and competitions. The competition section will hopefully incorporate team selections and it is anticipated that individual team managers will be able to update it as necessary. Once up and running, training can be arranged. Money not yet received from WA. Name – East Wales Athletics, new hosts. New logo needed as current logo is very low resolution.  
**ACTION: JT to chase JW about funding, RSJ to ask WA for copy of Privacy Notice**
  - C. Change of structure to Endurance pilot
    - a. MJ reported that they have had feedback through the season, however MJ would like to widen it to other eligible clubs to give feedback. Funding is available to hire Newport Harriers Club Room to hold meeting if necessary. Bookings can go through KC or HG  
**ACTION: MJ to contact other clubs, KC to book room if necessary**

D. Dissemination of Code of conduct

- a. Code of conduct forms have been disseminated to all clubs. Members to check with club secretaries that this has been received as JJ reported that they have not yet seen it. RSJ confirmed that it had been sent out to the Secretaries listed on the portal and JT reiterated the importance of clubs informing the region and WA of any changes of Club Secretary and updating their contact details. RSJ also confirmed that all Codes of Conduct were available on the WA website.

**ACTION: RSJ will re-send all Codes of Conduct. All members to check that Club Secretaries have disseminated the Codes of Conduct to its Coaches, Team Mangers, Parent Volunteers and Officials.**

3. DISCUSSION:

A. Establishing East Regional Sub Groups

- a. Track and Field met to select teams for the Inter Regional Championships. JT asked if the region wanted to extend the pilot - sub groups to meet independently as a group and report back to the region at the meeting. DF agreed to lead the Endurance/XC sub group, DM and PH to be included also.

**ACTION: DF to arrange meeting asap due to upcoming Cross-Country**

B. Endurance Team Managers (Senior age group only)

- DF confirmed that he is likely to be standing down as Endurance Team Manger and that a replacement is yet to be confirmed. JT emphasised the need for a decision given the upcoming cross-country season. JJ asked if we had canvassed all teams for Team Managers. JT confirmed that a team Manager was needed for the Senior age group only as DM was interested in being Junior Team Manager but not the senior.

C. Affiliation of New Club

- a. JT reported that an objection had been received from Pontypool Runners.  
b. JJ confirmed that their club had prepared the response but felt that they had not officially been asked for a response and assumed that clubs would be emailed for their opinion.  
c. JT and BAM confirmed that all members who were present at the last meeting were aware of the situation and it was the responsibility of members to take this back to clubs to discuss with their members as some clubs present had done.  
d. Members were confused as to the protocol: BAM read out the 'Guidance Notes for New Clubs applying for Affiliation to Welsh Athletics' document and asked members to consider the following points as suggested in an email from Chris Moss.
1. Any potential negative or detrimental effects on the activities of existing clubs in the same locality
  2. It is not considered to be a potential or perceived 'Breakaway' club as defined in the guidance notes.
- e. JT asked Pontypool to summarise their objections:
1. The club received a serious complaint against LS, following which they believe that AD committed a serious breach of privacy and data protection. They believe that all efforts had not been made to resolve dispute with LS and the members left within 2 weeks of a grievance being raised.

2. The club did not offer any enhanced opportunities that were not already being met by the established clubs in that area.
  3. The club would have a negative and detrimental effect on their numbers as some Pontypool Running Club members have already been canvassed to join the new club.
- f. Members discussed whether it is a Breakaway Club and JT asked if any other clubs had any objections to the application.
- Fairwater – no objections
  - Chepstow – no objections, fully support the application
  - Bryn Bach – instructed to abstain
  - Rhymney Valley AC – objected due to it being a breakaway club
- g. JT invited LS and AD to put their case forward:
1. They feel it is not a breakaway club and have purposefully gone to a different area.
  2. Plan is to target members of a gym who currently only run on a treadmill.
  3. They have a group of approximately 30 individuals who currently train with them and welcome the opportunity to run outside, some of which are members of other clubs but have been told to stay with their own club to compete.
  4. They wanted to encourage young people, through their teenage years, into trail running - as there is currently no provision for this in the region.
  5. Plan is to target the following disciplines:
    - Trail (u11, u13, u15, u17, u20, seniors and masters)
    - Road (seniors and masters)
    - Cross Country (seniors and masters)
    - Track & Field (seniors and masters)
- h. LS and AD were asked to provide some clarification on the following points:
1. If they understood what it meant to be a Track and Field club - AD confirmed that they didn't understand at what it meant to be a track club and only had plans to use the track for speed work at the moment but possibly would be interested in becoming a track club in the future. JT advised that they would need to amend their application to reflect this and both AD and LS that they had written it incorrectly in their application.
  2. Will Mountain Running be targeted as a discipline – LS said NO and AD said yes – JT reminded both that their form said NO. Both then agreed that Mountain Running would not be offered but trail running would.
  3. Clarity as to the age groups targeted for Trail running as currently there are no competitions for junior athletes (i.e. U11, u13, u15)
- i. Advised by JT that WA would inform them in due course.
- j. JT summarised the main objections: 1. It was perceived as breakaway club, 2. Clarification of disciplines needed. Eligible members then took a vote.
- k. Vote:
- Accepted no conditions – 4
  - Accept with conditions – 3
  - Reject – 4

BAM suggested it was sent out to an email vote but JT and JJ felt that due to it being beyond the 8 weeks a decision should be made this evening.

KM suggested that as there were 7 votes for it to be accepted and 4 rejected it be accepted with conditions and that members vote on the following proposed conditions.

They do not operate Trail Running for Juniors:

Accept the condition: 4

Against the condition: 6

Abstain: 2

Clarity on what disciplines they will offer and the age groups involved:

All accepted

Resolve the dispute with Pontypool:

(JT confirmed that as Welfare Officer for the region no complaint had been made against them. CV confirmed that other members had contacted WA directly to make the complaint)

- Accept the condition: 4

- Against: 5

- Abstain: 2

Overall decision: Accept provided they clarify the disciplines as set out by the conditions and the age groups they will cater for within those disciplines.

#### **D. East Wales Kit**

BAM raised concerns regarding the state of the East Wales kit. KM confirmed that Men's vests have been recently ordered and suggested that the kit be run down before we think about ordering a new kit; the smallest size available is size 10 ladies and xs mens. KM also raised concerns re: the costs. JJ confirmed that Ruggedbug are able to provide cheaper vests in both children's and adults sizes which can be ordered via an online shop and it would take the responsibility away from the team managers to manage the kit. BAM suggested that in the interim, whilst the adults kit was being run down, we look at ordering new vest for our junior athletes.

**Action: JT to stocktake vests and check smallest vests for size with a range of junior athletes. BAM to add 'Update of kit stock' to the agenda for each meeting.**

#### **E. Finance:**

KM gave the following update (financial report attached):

- a. Jen Stone has taken over as South Treasurer. KM had been hoping to give up but with permission would like to keep on as East Treasurer for the interim period.
- b. The £1720 from Business Deposit Account will be withdrawn and added to normal account.
- c. We have Purchased EDM which has been used already on numerous occasions. We paid 40% of costs, South 60% of costs.
- d. YDL - South will be paying us £643 on a 60/40 split – money from YDL will have to be split with the south as South and East YDL teams will be split next year.

e. JS will look after the Championships and will send bill for a % of the registered competitors from the Championships.

f. £1500 still to come from WA for website development

**Action: KM to send updated copies to BAM**

#### 4. REPORTS:

##### A. Network Officers' Reports.

Ryan Spencer-Jones report disseminated to all clubs. – see attached report.

a. xc about to start if there are any clubs that would like to be involved?

b. Clubs conference – 17<sup>th</sup> November

c. Regional Development Day – Throws – u11- u15

d. Clubs Portal – just 2 clubs left to sign up to portal

**Action: RS to ask for an update on sprints program**

##### B. Officials.

T & F (LC) - Update from Lyn Cushing:

a. RVAC recently held a Track Judge Course at club where 4 RVAC volunteers and 1 Newport Volunteer attended.

b. RVAC will be holding a Field Judge Course at club on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October where 7 RVAC volunteers will be attending. Should any club wish to send any volunteers please let Zoe from WA know.

c. The Health & Safety Course will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

##### C. Other reports.

a. WA General Council (JT) – nothing to report, meeting next week

b. Cross-Country/Road (PS) - nothing to report

c. Track & Field (JT) – no minutes received as yet from meeting. JT raised a number of concerns about the Inter Regional Championships:

1. Team Managers being asked to officiate, especially given that our region provided a large number of officials for the event.

2. Members felt that the date of the competition was an issue as it clashed with the AAA and Masters Championships.

3. The state of the facilities at the IR Champs and the lack of toilet facilities were a concern. CV suggested that all regions should be given an officiating criterion in order for their athletes to take part.

d. Welfare: JT would like to invite Steve Jones to region as clubs are not following protocol; clubs were reminded that guidelines were available on both the UKA and WA websites. Clubs were reminded of the importance of following protocol as if incidences go to court and protocol has not been followed it would negate the evidence given.

**Action: JT to take concerns re: Interregional Champs back to next Track & Field Committee meeting**

#### 5. Minutes of the Last Meeting/Matter Arising not already covered

A. Rob Symonds to be added to list of attendees

B. Andrew Dickens' surname incorrectly listed as Summers

**Action: BAM to make above amendments**

#### 6. Any Other Business

A. JJ asked if there were funds available for A Senior Regional Development Day for Endurance – members agreed that the Grass Roots Grant could be used to fund this.

- B. KM reminded members that Committee Members & Team Managers were able to claim back costs for attending meetings, printing costs etc.
- C. RSJ confirmed that the Welsh Development Days would be held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- D. AGM Minutes – JT requested that they be ratified and sent to JW
- E. Dates for future meetings – these will be decided after the General Council Meeting
- F. Presentations – JT proposed that the region ask Steve Jones and Neil Wheeler to give presentations along with the Directors of WA to explain their role and what they do.

**Action: JT to send expenses form to BAM. BAM to send final version of AGM minutes to JW**

**7. Any Other Business.**

- A. **Date of next meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Members were thanked for their attendance.

**Attachments:**

RSJ Report

Finance Report